

AMENDED CLAIM IN CLEAN FORM

SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH 37 CFR 1.121(c)(i)
IN RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF 5 JUNE 2002

- AJ*
1. (Amended) A thin until wet material suitable for use as an acquisition layer in an absorbent article, the material consisting essentially of crosslinked cellulosic fibers, temporary binding means and at least one component selected from the group consisting of high surface area fibers and wet strength means, said material being held in a compressed state by said temporary binding means until exposure to an aqueous liquid, wherein:

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when said material is saturated by an aqueous fluid, said material has an expanded wet density of between about 0.04 grams/cm³ and about 0.4 grams/cm³ and a medium capillary desorption height (CDH) of less than about 25 cm;

said temporary binding means helps maintain said material at a compressed dry density of between about 0.06 grams/cm³ and about 1.2 grams /cm³ until said material is exposed to an aqueous fluid wherein, upon such exposure, said temporary binding means releases so that said material expands at a compressed initial z-direction expansion rate of at least about 0.5 millimeters/second; and

the ratio of said compressed dry density to said expanded wet density is greater than about 1.5:1.

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9. (Amended) A thin until wet material according to Claim 1 wherein said thin until wet material further comprises wet strength means.

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16. (Amended) A thin until wet material according to Claim 9 wherein said material further comprises high surface area fibers.

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26. (Amended) An absorbent core for an absorbent article said absorbent core comprising:
an acquisition member, said acquisition member comprising a thin until wet material wherein said thin until wet material consisting essentially of crosslinked cellulosic fibers, wet strength means, temporary binding means, and, optionally, high surface area fibers, wherein:

said wet strength means connects at least a portion of the individual fibers forming said assembly such that, when said material is saturated by an aqueous fluid, said material has an expanded wet density of between about 0.04 grams/cm³ and about 0.5 grams/cm³ and a CDH of less than about 25 cm;

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said temporary binding means helps maintain said material at a compressed dry density of between about 0.06 grams/cm³ and about 1.2 grams /cm³ until said material is exposed to an aqueous fluid wherein, upon such exposure, said temporary binder releases so that said material expands at a compressed initial z-direction expansion rate of at least about 0.5 millimeters/second; and
the ratio of said compressed dry density to said expanded wet density is greater than about 1.5:1; and

at least one additional core component in fluid communication with said acquisition member.

AMENDED CLAIM MARKED UP TO SHOW CHANGES
SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(ii)
IN RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF 5 JUNE 2002

1. (Amended) A thin until wet material suitable for use as an acquisition layer in an absorbent article, the material [being at least partially] consisting essentially of crosslinked cellulosic fibers, temporary binding means and at least one component selected from the group consisting of high surface area fibers and wet strength means, said material being held in a compressed state by said temporary binding means until exposure to an aqueous liquid, wherein:

when said material is saturated by an aqueous fluid, said material has an expanded wet density of between about 0.04 grams/cm³ and about 0.4 grams/cm³ and a medium capillary desorption height (CDH) of less than about 25 cm;

said temporary binding means helps maintain said material at a compressed dry density of between about 0.06 grams/cm³ and about 1.2 grams /cm³ until said material is exposed to an aqueous fluid wherein, upon such exposure, said temporary binding means releases so that said material expands at a compressed initial z-direction expansion rate of at least about 0.5 millimeters/second; and

the ratio of said compressed dry density to said expanded wet density is greater than about 1.5:1.
9. (Amended) A thin until wet material according to Claim [8] 1 wherein said thin until wet material [comprises an at least partially cellulosic fibrous assembly and said fibrous assembly] further comprises wet strength means.
16. A thin until wet material according to Claim 9 wherein said [fibrous assembly] material further comprises [fibers selected from the group consisting of]high surface area fibers[, non-cellulosic fibers, and mixtures thereof].
26. (Amended) An absorbent core for an absorbent article said absorbent core comprising:

an acquisition member, said acquisition member comprising a thin until wet material wherein said thin until wet material [comprises an assembly] consisting essentially of crosslinked cellulosic fibers, wet strength means, [and] temporary binding means, and, optionally, high surface area fibers, wherein:

said wet strength means connects at least a portion of the individual fibers forming said assembly such that, when said material is saturated by an aqueous fluid, said material has an expanded wet density of between about 0.04 grams/cm³ and about 0.5 grams/cm³ and a CDH of less than about 25 cm;

said temporary binding means helps maintain said material at a compressed dry density of between about 0.06 grams/cm³ and about 1.2 grams /cm³ until said material is exposed to an aqueous fluid wherein, upon such exposure, said temporary binder releases so that said material expands at a compressed initial z-direction expansion rate of at least about 0.5 millimeters/second; and
the ratio of said compressed dry density to said expanded wet density is greater than about 1.5:1; and

at least one additional core component in fluid communication with said acquisition member.